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BELFAST**

Street Society 2016: Creative Activation

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Street Society

Street Society 2016
Creative Activation

Street Society
School of Planning, Architecture and Civil
Engineering, Queen's University Belfast

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2016

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Street Society was devised and founded in
2010 by Ruth Morrow

Street Society 2016 publication and final day
event curated by Rachel O'Grady

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DCAL as part of the Urban Villages Initiative



The logo features a stylized graphic of a city skyline or street layout composed of several horizontal teal lines of varying lengths and offsets, creating a sense of depth and urban structure.

Street Society

A week of Live Projects at the School of Planning,
Architecture and Civil Engineering, Queen's University
Belfast

Street Society 2016
Creative Activation

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Credit: Fred Rood at Elite Image

Introduction, Aims and Objectives

Street Society is an annual one-week design event, which has run since 2010, and is facilitated by architecture staff from the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering (SPACE), Queen's University Belfast. It brings clients from non-profit, voluntary sectors together with students of architecture to co-create design proposals.

The 2016 edition of Street Society took place in March. QUB worked in partnership with the Urban Villages Initiative and local community organisations in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry. Students from architecture, music, sonic arts and anthropology were based in five Urban Village areas in Northern Ireland: North, South, East and West Belfast, and Derry-Londonderry.

On the final day of the project, students presented their work to local community organisations, Urban Village representatives, and external evaluators at locations in each of the five Urban Village areas.

First-year undergraduate and first-year postgraduate students worked in teams on projects identified by local community organisations; responding to the overarching themes of 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Sustainable Economic Development'.

Aim

To develop and test a socio-spatial, collaborative and creative city design laboratory: a space of urban rehearsal.

Objectives

1. Product

To facilitate a series of projects that combine research, analysis and proposition; bring together the skills of students, local representatives/residents and other stakeholders; and relate to the physical study-area site.

2. Act

To create acts of temporary, imaginative and improvised urbanism, (activating the space through occupation), in response to tight timescales and reduced resources.

3. Pedagogy

To understand the range and depth of learning experienced by all actors and agents brought about by the socio-spatial nature of the project.

4. Process

To curate the group of projects in such a way that overarching themes emerge, creating a space to discuss common experiences and varying views.

5. Evaluation

To understand what was learnt by the actors, (students, residents and organisations), involved, and how that learning was facilitated.

6. Dissemination

To share the outcomes in ways that impact on local policy and strategic guidance, whilst developing themes of international importance as a contribution to research.

West Belfast





Credit: Fred Rood at Elite Image



Project 1

Footprints Women's Centre

Proposing ideas for a children's play therapy space

Client:

Footprints Women's Centre, Dunmurry

Student Group:

Croina Freeman, Bonnie Chau, Loes de Keyser (MArch) Charlie Monaghan, Quadri Oyetunde, Yijing Wang. (BSc)

Client Brief:

Redesign an internal space as a place for child therapy and family work: this internal space must have a toilet and provide plenty of storage space. Design an outdoor child therapy space for use on a sunny day with areas for parental meetings. This outdoor space must be sealed and secure.

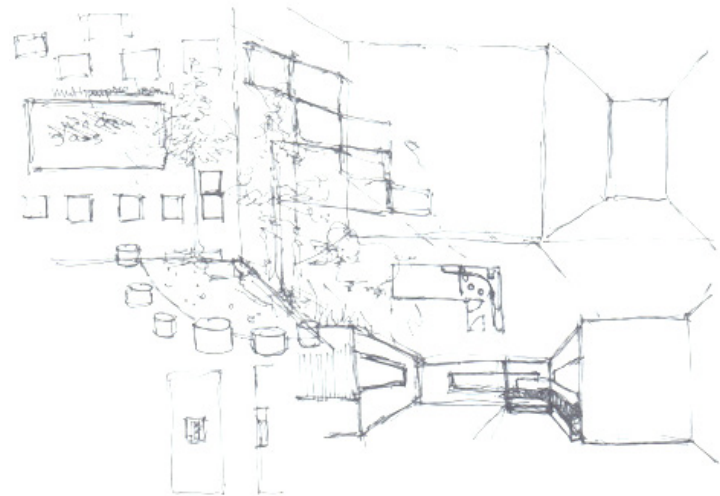
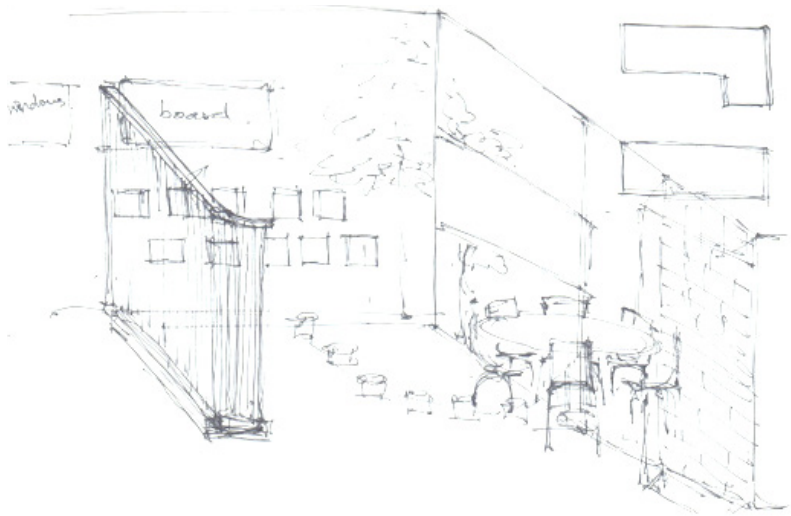
Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

We met with the client and gave out several precedents to gain an impression of what they might like in the new space to be designed. We got the client's requirements for the new space. Internet research on child therapy and materials were conducted. Plans and sections of the indoor and outdoor space were drawn. Sketch ideas were drawn onto plans and sections as a group. We then decided on a preliminary design for the indoor and outdoor space. Autocad and Sketch-up were used to draw up the preliminary design. Adjustments were made to the preliminary design. Final design for both indoor and outdoor space was concluded and drawn up.

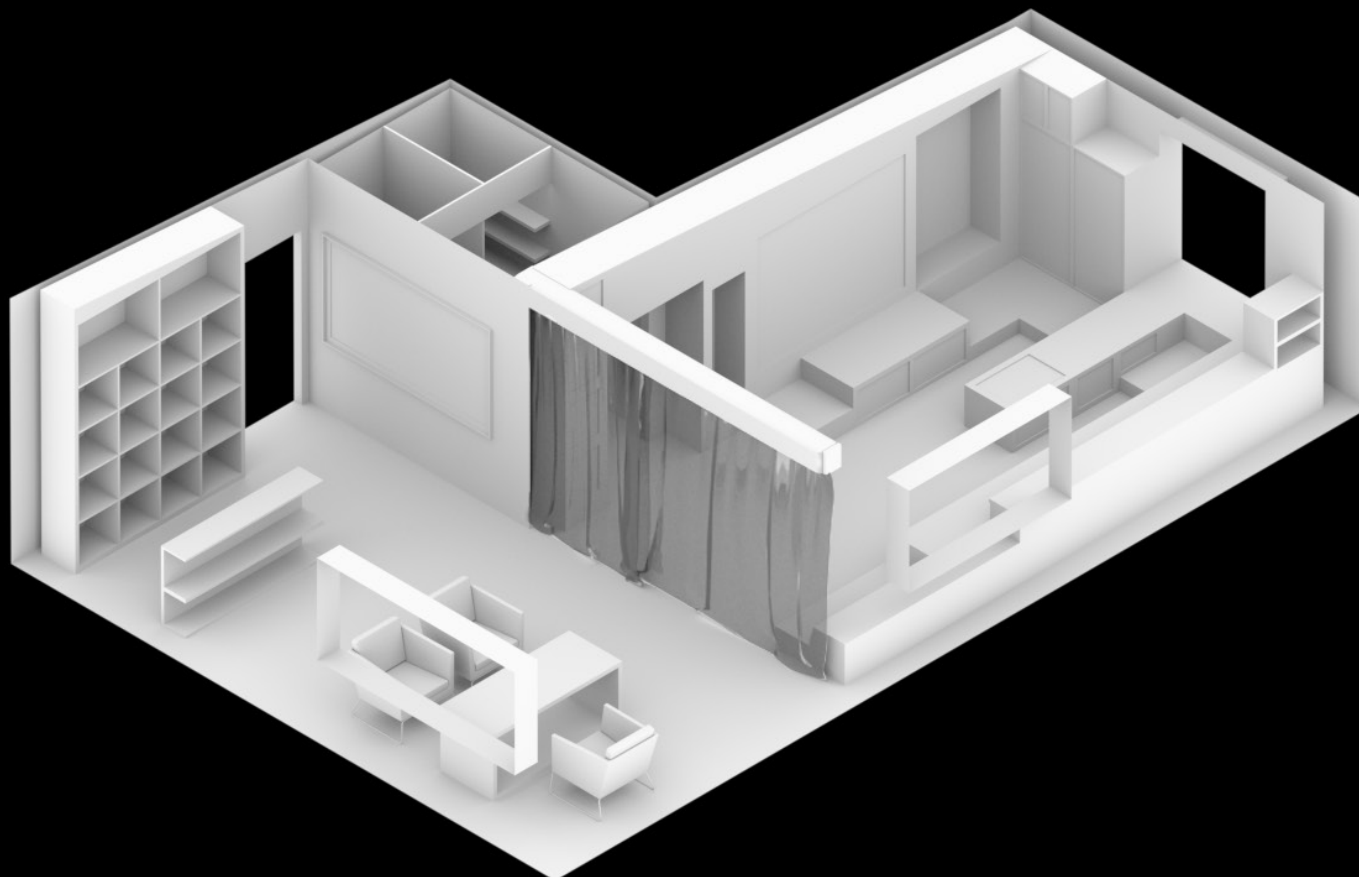
Reflections:

Through meeting with our client and extensive research on child therapy, we as a group got a real sense of what was required in each space. We found both the internal and external spaces full of potential, but when designing we had to keep in mind our budget of £50,000. Our client wanted natural materials to be used emphasizing natural textures and was open to the idea of using recycled materials. With this in mind we found a local timber yard selling used scaffolding planks, which we incorporated into our design. We also decided to use recycled tyres as flooring for a play space in our external design. In our internal design we utilized furniture for storage.





Development Sketches



Project 2

Meanwhile Town Centre

'Pop Up' community space to help integrate the surrounding communities whilst embedding the idea of a 'Town Centre' that focuses on the people of Colin.

Client:

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

Student Group:

Alice Gordon, Hayden Allen, Paul Dennison (MArch 1); Dominika Stanek, Eryn McQuillan, Jack Rankin, Michelle SzeYee (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

Colin currently has only a few poor quality buildings that service the community, each surrounded by fencing, razor wire and set in a sea of municipal grass. But recently Colin has gained a master-plan. It is hoped that it will provide the coherent, permanent collection of buildings that support community needs. But before then? Before the finances have been put in place and before the master-plan is built? What happens? How do we ensure that the community (communities) have ownership over their centre? Can we practice being civic without a civic environment? What might a meanwhile town centre look like?

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

This project is about temporary spaces that support social and civic activities and that create moments of community coherence and interaction. We came up with a manual of possibilities: an Ikea-like brochure for a 'meanwhile town centre'.

Using the modularity, robust nature and low maintenance qualities of shipping containers, we proposed a 'Pop-Up' centre which will act as an open source focal point within Colin. The containers are stacked and clustered to create an active streetscape where activities like busking, graffiti and socializing are encouraged.

Units are versatile and multifunctional and can be easily adapted when necessary. Units can be used for educational workshops, public meeting spaces, food outlets or retail.

The aim is that the small percentage of food and retail units can fund other aspects of the project. Alongside the 'Pop Up' project we propose to further the concept of an existing art-work 'Leap Of Faith' by having local children pose for silhouette public art, signposting the extent of the proposed master-plan.











Project 3 Linkages

An analytical assessment of the current extent and linkages of the Colin area, introducing physical interventions to promote stronger and safer linkages to Colin town centre.

Client:

Lagmore residents, Urban Villages Team

Student Group:

Joanne Marshall, Emma Rygalska, Bria Mongan (MArch 1); Dinah Haji Shahbudin, Zhe Ming Kong, Aaron McClements, Ashleigh McFerran (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

As work gets underway to provide a new town centre in Colin, it is essential that the linkage problems of the suburbs of Colin, comprising of Twinbrook, Poleglass, Lagmore and Kilwee, are methodically addressed. The current extent and quality of linkages in Colin and how people use these routes and spaces should be assessed with the intention to provide stronger and safer linkages between neighbourhoods and the proposed town centre.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

Analytical assessment and conversations with local members of community forums highlighted the sprawling, low-density suburban areas of Colin. Not only did the areas lack links to the proposed town centre, but they also had little connection with each other, creating a fragmented town. This led to a high dependency on the car and other forms of transport. Creating linkages through the natural glens of each of the four areas of Colin provides a simple and economical solution to provide linkages to all areas and the town centre. Effective installations such as an open air cinema, fishing ponds and football goals along the glen create a stepping stone effect that promotes a fun and interactive link to the town centre, promoting the wellbeing of residents and a social and geographical cohesion of Colin.

Reflections:

Understanding the Colin area was imperative to the creation of the linkages to the four areas and the proposed town centre. Through meetings with the local community, an understanding was made of the quality of life within the Colin area, its lacking community facilities, sprawling housing and high

dependency on the car or other modes of private transport. Through the creation of linkages and installments, it is hoped that this will provide a safer and stronger linkage to the town centre. Three phases have been proposed: walking, cycle lanes and a tram system. On reflection, a tram system may become unrealistic, however it is a subtle suggestion regarding the lack of public transport reaching the higher levels of Colin.



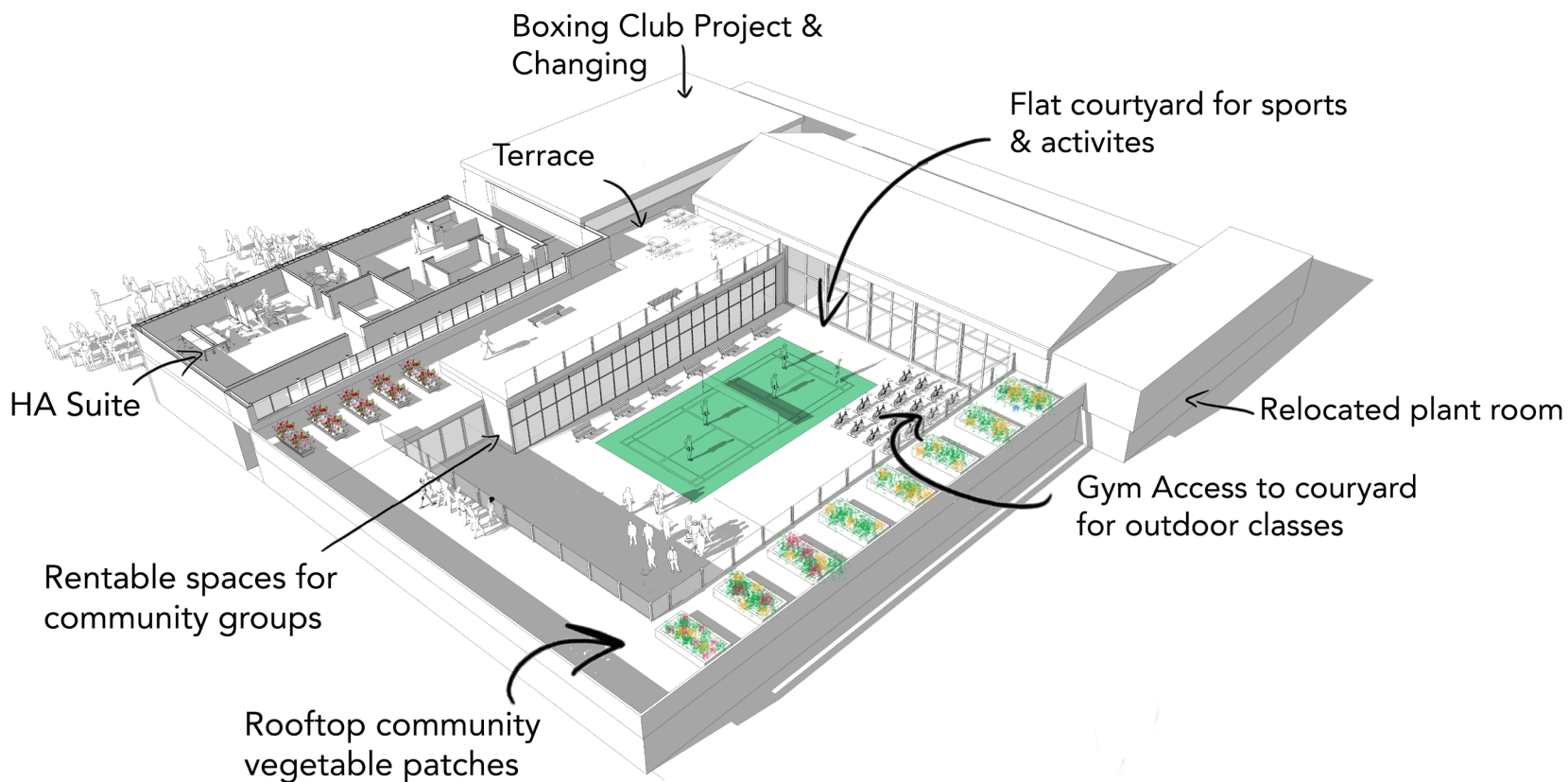




North Belfast







Project 1

St. Gemma's Healthy Future

Client:

ABC Health and Leisure Trust

Student Group:

Matthew Murnin, Ben McCreanor, Brian Maguire (MARCH 1), Omar Al-Gurg, Roseline Anton Gnamam, Philippa Smith, Merin Antoney (BSc)

Client Brief:

Our site was a disused girl's secondary school that is currently in ownership of the ABC Health and Leisure Trust. The brief sought to provide space for community led events throughout the year and act as an environment that promotes health and mental well-being. The space should also provide adequate accommodation for the existing three tenants: FlexFit Gym, YEHA (Youth Education and Health Awareness) and the proposed Boxing Club. The project involves the removal of the boundary wall to the rear of the site and construction of a new entrance to the building at this location, re-engaging this side of the community with the building. It will act as a beacon for the communities, becoming a welcoming environment.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

The project's principal aim was to provide a scheme that could be developed in a phased approach as funding becomes available to the project. This delivers maximum community benefits from any funding received and the building can remain in use throughout. The central courtyard becomes the focal point of the school with accommodation enjoying access and views to a new multipurpose space. Benefiting from a flat surface which can accommodate significantly more activities and events, groups can utilise the space for yoga, badminton, dancing, concerts and the proposal forms a potential site for temporary installations.

Reflections:

With funding in place for the boxing section of the building, phased construction was essential to allow for continued development in incremental stages. Each stage can be carried out independently of the remainder of the rest of the building ensuring that existing services are maintained. The project's aspiration as a community hub straddling a divide is fulfilled by the central courtyard: an ideal community space at the heart of the building.

The client's pragmatic approach to development revitalises the building in its current state and can only benefit from further investment and growth.





Concept Model



Football Sketch

Presentation to client

Arbhyne Ave

NEW ENTRANCE

North Belfast | 23

Project 2

Rivers and Glens

Client:

Ballysillan Upper Ardoyne Neighbourhood Partnership

Student Group:

Jamie Sloan, James Irwin, Natalie Taylor, Lauren Willey (MArch 1); Ahmad Bin Mohd Yusoff, Hei Fung Chong, Lee Donnelly, Jack Morgan, Luke Murray, Louis Vidalinc (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

Great pride was taken locally in the relatively little known fact that the River Farset flows through the area, despite its concealment underground. Through the Urban Village Initiative, work is now needed to explore this potential further so that the project can bring tangible benefits to the area.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

A series of cheaply constructed 'Pallet Pods', based at intersections of a walking trail that spans the site, allows multifunctional spaces that will incorporate varying activities. The activities will depend on community needs but the pods could be used for arts and crafts, music, cinema, dog care, reading, and education.

It is proposed that the local community have a high level of involvement with the construction works, from the digging and leveling of the site, to the piecing together of pallets to form walls. Supported on stilts, each pod will vary in height depending on its function, some providing more intimate and direct access to the river and others offering high viewpoints across the city and the hills.

Reflections

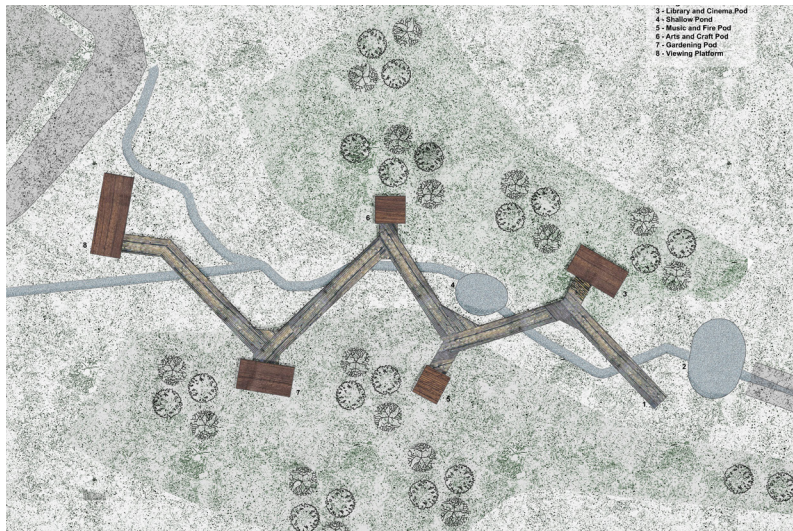
As we felt the master plan for the Greater Ballysillan Area was already developed to a high standard, and in consideration of time, we decided to quickly identify part of the Ballysillan Playing Fields as our key site.

We were immediately drawn to an area christened 'Egypt' by the local community. With its mature planting and visible portions of the Farset River, this underutilised section of the playing fields has great natural resources and helps to create a micro-environment free of traffic noise with great views to the surrounding hills.





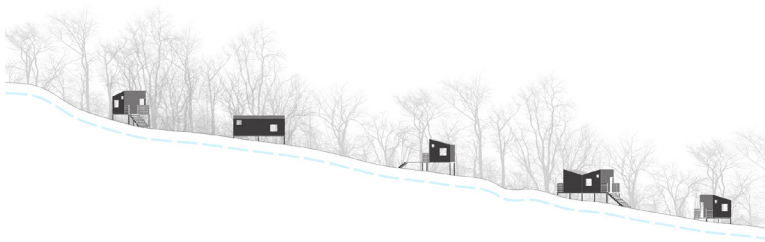
Themes of urban memory and changing identities.



Site Plan



Pod Section



Site Section



Conceptual Sketch



Project 3

Marrowbone

Client:

Marrowbone Community Association

Student Group:

Aimee McAvoy, Rebecca McConnell, Kirstin O' Regan (MArch 1); Sam Webb, Willa Wen, Ryan Mortimer, Beth Mogry (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

The Marrowbone Community Association has secured funding from DCAL and Belfast City Council to purchase the site and buildings and conduct some technical and basic renovation work to secure the integrity of the property. The association has plans to populate the site with projects, services and users attuned to the needs of the local community. The centre must have a sustainable and long term future with an ability to generate income.



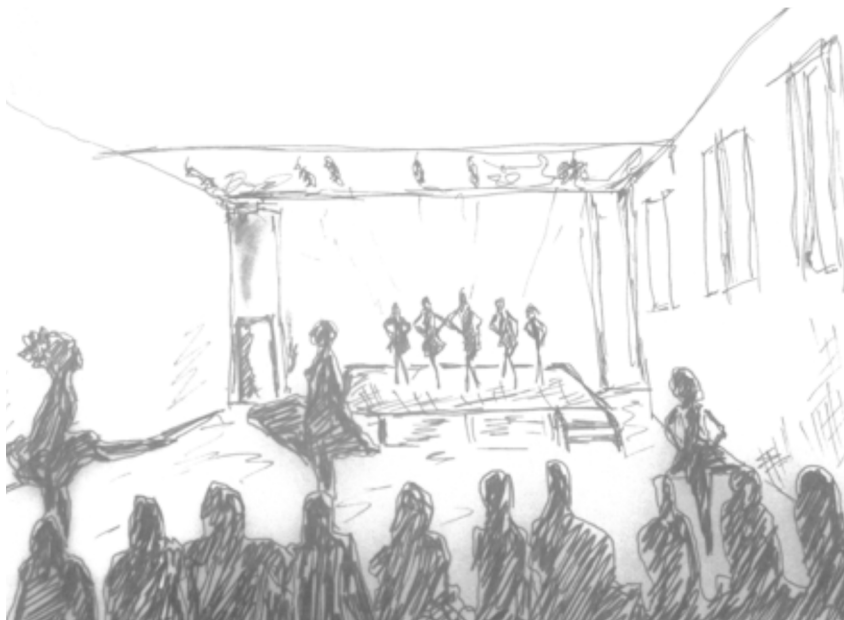
Project Description/Process and Outcomes

The project consists of a newly renovated boxing club on the first floor of the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, a new community hall with adaptable and flexible spaces to accommodate all clubs and activities and a cafe & outdoor space that opens up onto the proposed playpark at the front of the building. The external patio space at the front of the building has the potential to grow crops and vegetables at the planting area while also providing space for outdoor training with external gym equipment for the health and wellbeing of the community. This outdoor space is multipurpose for weekly market days, events and an overall local activity hub for all the community. The suspended ceiling on the first floor has been removed to provide the original structure that will accommodate all hanging equipment for the boxing club. The use of a suspended timber floor allows the boxers to train outside the ring with similar bounce dynamics.

Reflections

We instantly recognised the strong passion of the Marrowbone community. We consciously set out to reflect this in our design proposal, generating a multi-use space for the area. The target group is inclusive of all ages: youth, teens, adults and the older generation — producing a 'full circle'. Our aim was to make the Sacred Heart Parish Centre more inviting, breaking down the barriers between street and building. It will act as a neighbourhood hub, delivering the opportunity to grow your own crops, sell goods and produce in the weekly market, and use the yield as an ingredient for the cafe.





Observational Sketches



Cafe



Boxing Club



Men's Shed



Swimming Pool



Child Care



Irish Dancing

failte

Irish Language Centre



Child Care
Playpark



Child Care
Playpark



Playpark
Multimedia Screens -
Cinema/ Gaming events
Cycling
Clubs and Activities



Playpark
Clubs and Activities
Boxing Club
Gym Classes



Men and Women's Club
Weekly markets
Irish Language Centre
Library
Boxing Club
Planting Area



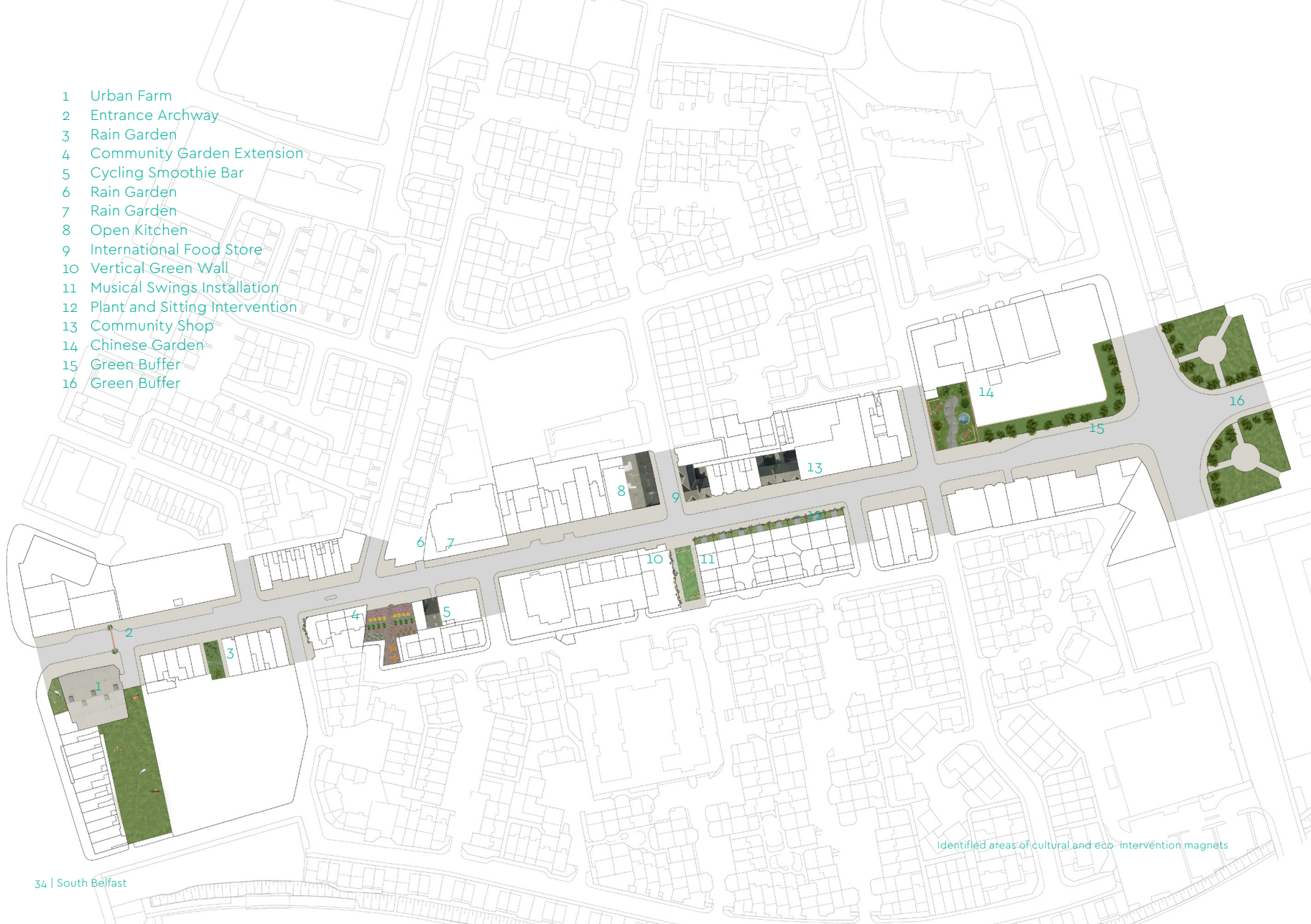
Irish Language Centre
Cafe
Library
Meals on Wheels

South Belfast

Belfast



- 1 Urban Farm
- 2 Entrance Archway
- 3 Rain Garden
- 4 Community Garden Extension
- 5 Cycling Smoothie Bar
- 6 Rain Garden
- 7 Rain Garden
- 8 Open Kitchen
- 9 International Food Store
- 10 Vertical Green Wall
- 11 Musical Swings Installation
- 12 Plant and Sitting Intervention
- 13 Community Shop
- 14 Chinese Garden
- 15 Green Buffer
- 16 Green Buffer



Identified areas of cultural and eco-intervention magnets

Project 1

From Woods to Gardens

Regeneration of Donegall Pass through sustainable urban interventions which celebrate the existing cultural diversity.

Client:

Donegall Pass Community Forum,
The Garden of Eatin' Volunteer Gardeners

Student Group:

Ben Rey, Gillian Zheng, Nur Syahida (MArch 1);
Sophie Coyle, Izak Christofides, Eleanor McQuaid,
Reihan Aziz (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

Donegall Pass was identified as a street in decline. The client wanted to bring more life to the area using the example of the existing community garden which was their first attempt at doing so.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

Donegall Pass was identified as a street in decline. The client wanted to bring more life to the area using the example of the existing community garden, which was their first attempt at doing so.

The first thing we did was arrange a meeting with the client after having a short look at the site. The client explained their problems, a few ideas they wished to investigate, and the community garden scheme which already worked in the area. We then had a more in-depth look at the site, taking pictures and analysing the building uses and also the residential areas nearby. Online research was the next stage of our project, each person looked at precedents of urban villages and urban interventions that we could introduce to the area. We settled on the concept of cultural and eco-interventions to bring life back to the street and allow the local community to spend more time in the main artery of Donegall Pass.

Reflections:

Through this project we learned the importance of the client's brief and needs and particularly the process of real life projects. Compared to studio projects, a more in-depth knowledge of the social state of the community has to be considered, with all outcomes investigated. We also learned the importance of working in groups and engagement with all group members as each can bring something different to a project. We learned how to work in a short space of time and be efficient in our research and time management, which led to a project which we think is successful and has the potential to work.





Cycling Smoothie Bar; Community Garden Extension



Musical Swing Intervention; Vertical Wall Garden

Entrance Archway



Project 2

Market Arches

An intervention to bring disused archways back into public use.

Client:

Markets Development Association

Student Group:

Andrew English, Matthew Lucas,
Adrianne Barr (MARCH 1)
Rachel Aitcheson, Isabel Ku, Eoin Hill,
Nathan Li (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

East Bridge Street is situated above the Lanyon Tunnels, or Market Tunnels as they are fondly known locally. The brief called for an intervention to bring these disused archways, whose primary use was a simple means of storage, back into public use.

The community have a preliminary outline of what they would get most use of, which include a day care centre and a gym, a music venue was also suggested as a means of engaging the community. Further proposals now include a community garden which acts as a walk way between the two sides of the bridge, a vegetable stall, and an innovation workshop.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

Reclaiming Lanyon tunnels in an innovative manner which allows not only for local economic growth for the surrounding residential area but also serves the local community, acting as a social hub and day-care centre for community youth.

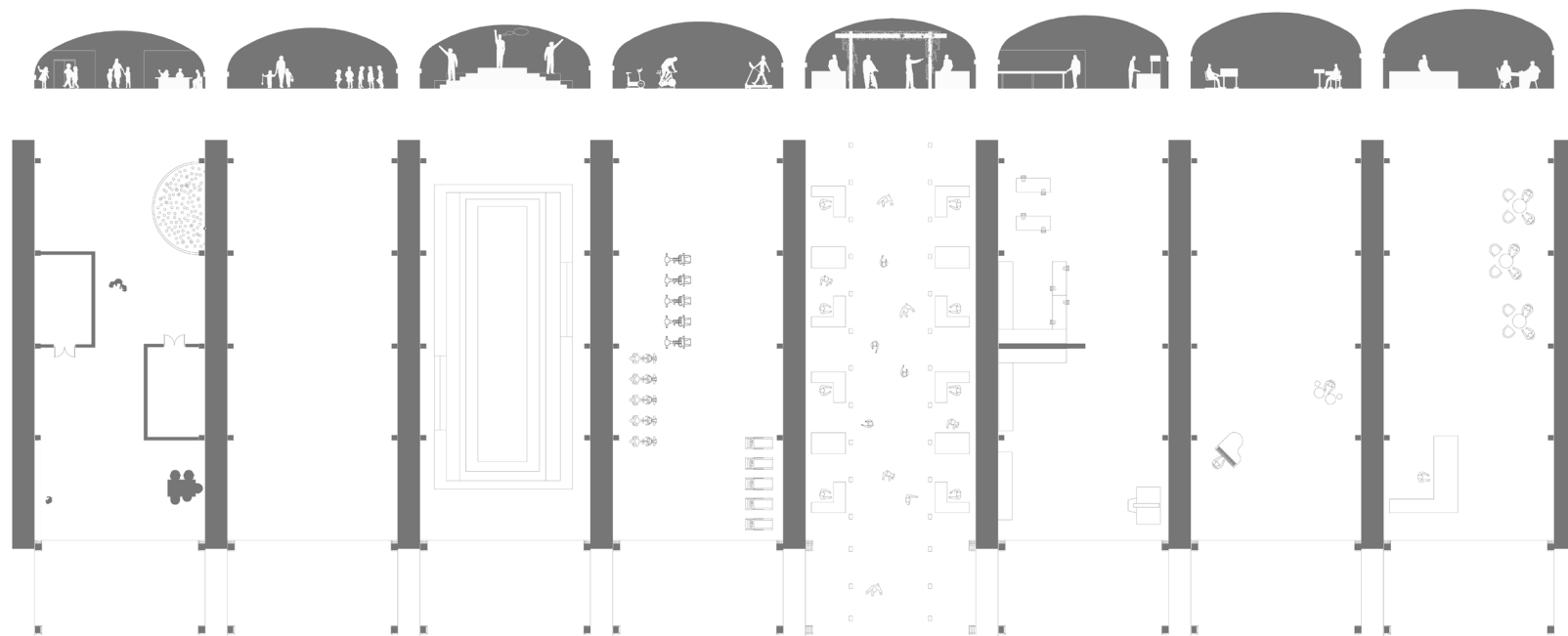
The tunnels have been manipulated to welcome light through use of glass paneling supported by arched timber structures to contrast with the coarse brickwork of Central Station Bridge, excelling the tunnels' character. In this way, tunnels have been extended beyond the openings by 5 meters, creating a welcoming, open plan archway which invites the local public in for social and innovative use.

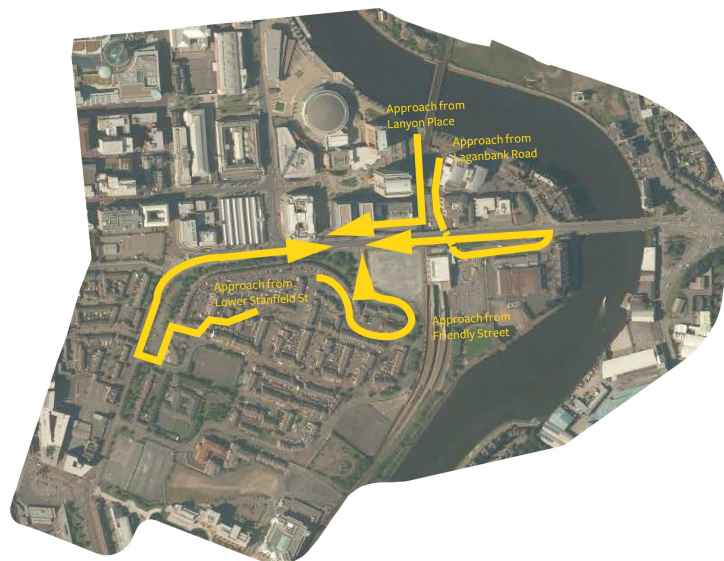
Furthermore, we have extended an access route across the top of emerging archways to create better access to tunnels and an overlooking vantage point of the surrounding community.

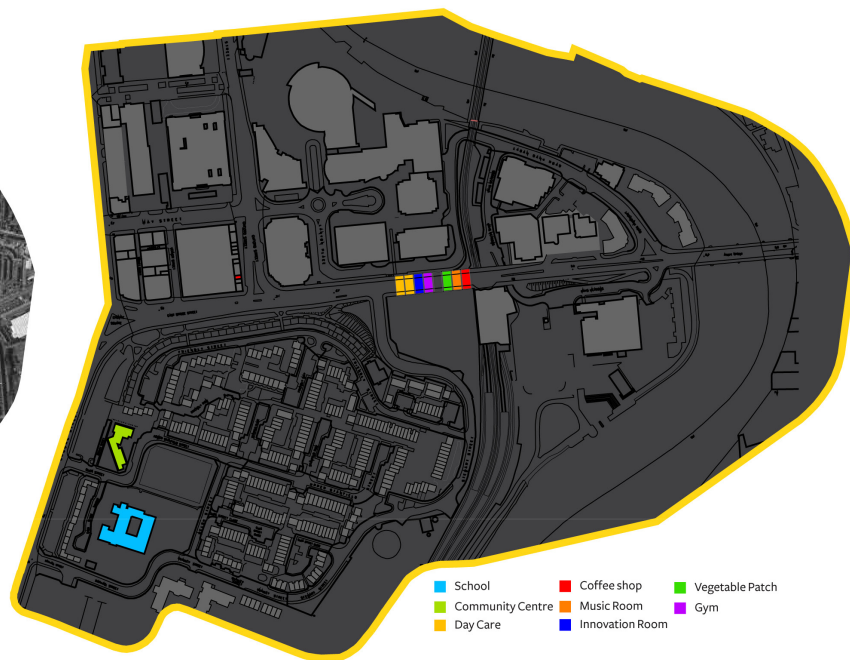
Reflections:

With this design, we have proposed innovative units supportive of the creative arts as well as local entrepreneurs in need of a central hub. Tunnel 5 also reclaims some local history, reopening a passage beneath the bridge as it would have stood at the height of St. George's market trade, now brought to life as a vegetative walkway for the community.











Proposed Entrance into Courtyard, with Temporary Community Pavilion

Project 3

An income-generating, community-owned building

An economically viable strategy for a building of local significance; reclaiming and sustaining community ownership.

Client:

Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR)

Student Group:

Jennifer Speirs, Mark Scott, Rory Rankin (MARCH 1); Simeng Zhu, Emma Wilson, Eibhlin Sherry, Hal Rowlinson (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

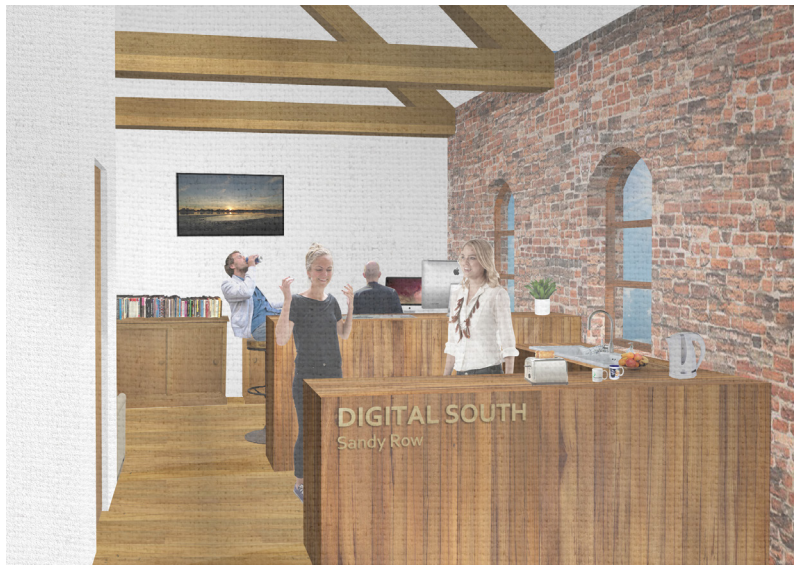
Gilpin's is a derelict industrial premises. The community wishes to reclaim the site, own it and make economic and community use of it. The building must be self-sustaining, build community confidence and funder interest. Make Gilpin's a model for an open and supportive building for local residents and a go-to destination for non-locals.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

The proposal includes initial restoration of the building, with the removal of derelict modern frontage, and the re-establishment of a brewery on the site to bring an initial income and provide local jobs. Tourists and increased footfall from the proposed transportation hub will be drawn to Sandy Row to visit the site of the oldest brewery in Belfast. An additional tasting bar with small museum will offer the opportunity for events and exhibitions. A cafe situated at the entrance to the courtyard will reactivate the street frontage and draw people into this outdoor space. The proposal for a temporary shelter in the courtyard will allow for a low cost community pavilion until possible future extension to the community centre. Multipurpose space on the ground floor with office studio rooms above will all be available for hire based around the Blick Shared Studios business model. This will generate income which can be used for digital training workshops and building upkeep. Provision of new space for BSCR will ensure permanent occupancy.

Reflections:

The main idea for the scheme was to investigate and propose a strategy for the purchase and restoration of the Gilpin's factory site. Previous feasibility studies had proposed full occupation of the site from the outset, which had not been seen as a viable option due to cost. Hence, we propose a strategy that would minimise the initial construction costs by phasing the work. This would allow for income to be generated by the staged incorporation of the brewery, rentable space and cafe, which could in turn fund further development. After speaking with the manager of BSCR, who expressed a community interest in the digital service market, we thought it appropriate to incorporate studios available for such. It was also clear that the community feels a great sense of pride but has no appropriate space to display their heritage. The facilities provided give them ample opportunity to do this. We hope that this proposal can encourage further investment in Sandy Row.



Potential Studio Space



Potential Tasting Bar / Museum Space



Project 4

Sonic Arts

A sonic exploration of urbanism, identity and community in South Belfast.

Student Group:

Emily McCabe, Simon Matthews Howard, Francesca O'Connor, Daniel Gillespie, Sarah Herald, Brendan Scullion, Spike Aylward, Leo Warde Hunter, Robert Graham, Robbie O'Neill, Oisín Hughes, Joel Brian Harkin, Jonathan O'Neill, Connaire Joseph Bradley, Jack Michael Owens, Adam Sloan, Colm McKenna, Andrew Shanks, Maeve O'Reilly, Ronan White, Rory Dermot O'Loughlin, Joshua Healy, Megan McKinney, Rory McManus, Jason Friel, Maeve Mulholland, Joshua Robert Eimer, Jason Robert Jackson, Eamonn Patrick Charles Cassidy, Ciaran Judge-O'Brien,

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

Sonic arts students worked in groups to devise ways in which sites can be sonically activated by capturing and projecting their sonic environments and acoustic characteristics. These materials formed the basis of a composition project presented as a series of sound installations, using the very fabric of the sites, found objects and other devices. Students explored strategies and technologies such as transducers attached to objects/structures to sonify their internal vibration, contact microphone recording, field recording, in-situ binaural recording and playback, amongst others.

Students engaged in interviews with community leaders which provided valuable material for addressing community-specific issues in a critical context. The outcomes consisted of six installations which aimed to invite audiences to discover hidden, unexpected and surprising aspects of the sound world of these specific spaces. Aspects of the work are available at <https://streetsociety2016.wordpress.com>

Reflections:

Engaging with urbanity from a primarily aural perspective can reveal unique insights and offer alternative modes of analysis and critique. This project did just that by developing sound-based works which expose community issues, celebrate local character and tell stories of place and people.

Sonic arts provide a rich platform which connects practices such as documentary making, installation art, music and socially engaged arts. These connections result in work that is thought-provoking, at times ambiguous and highly personal. This experience with Street Society has been extremely enriching as students were able to deal with local conditions and apply their skills in communicating a wide range of issues through sound. The results were engaging pieces which brought together field recordings, fragments of interviews, photographs, objects to tell specific stories and to heighten awareness of the role of sound in everyday life.



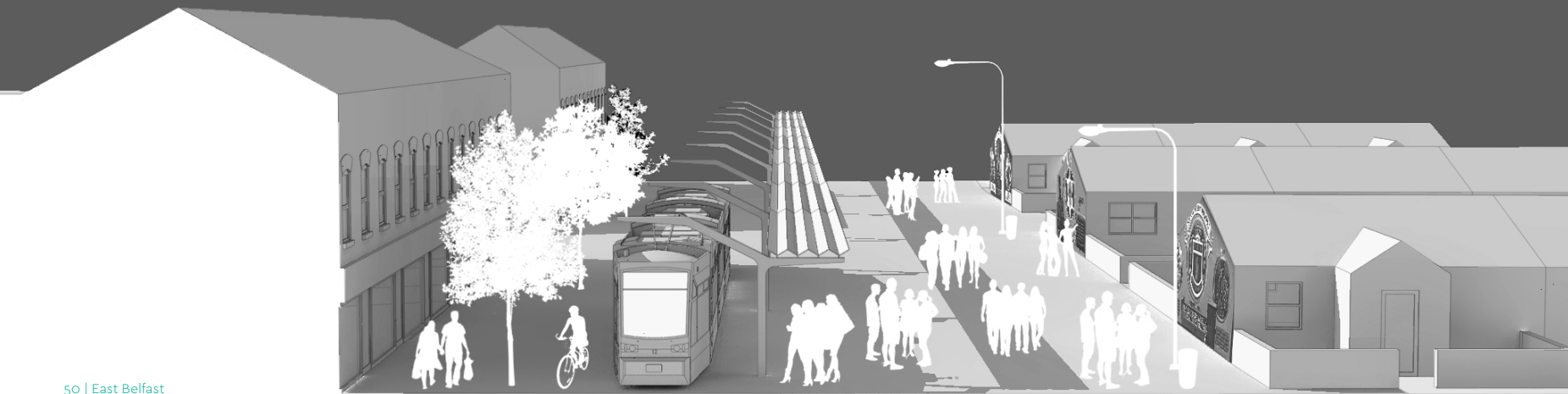
Sound Installation



Found objects

48 | East Belfast





Project 1

Activating Newtownards Road

Client:

Urban Villages Team

Student Group:

Cormac McCartney, Darragh Tracey, Darragh Sherry, Matthew Kernan (MArch 1); Philip Richardson, Carlos Tharma Nayagam (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

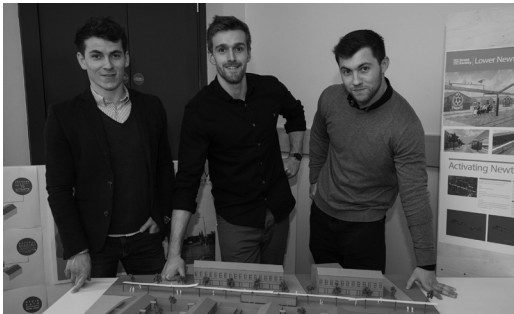
The client asked for us to consider people's interactions within and with the street, specifically the Lower Newtownards Road. The client's aim was to bring more life and livelihood to the local neighbourhood.

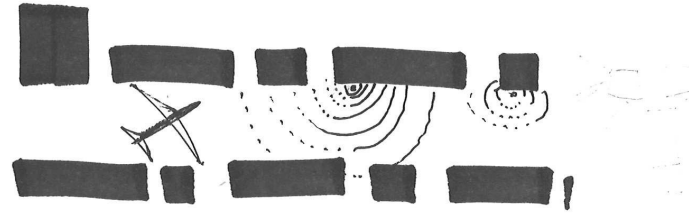
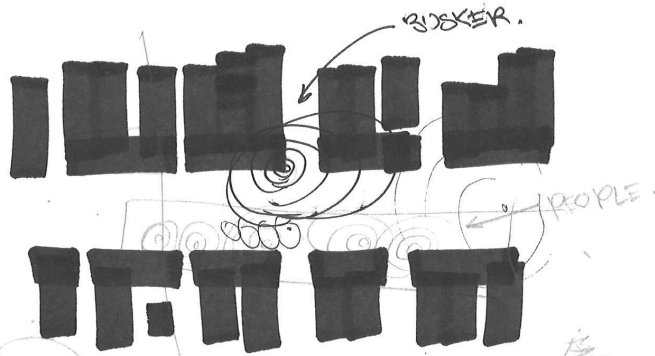
Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

Our response to this brief was to imagine ways to increase opportunities for people to interact and be more culturally and economically active. At present, the immediate traffic and neighbouring motorway restrict the most primitive of human interactions; verbal communication. Moreover, the presence of the road acts as a barrier which restricts the free movement within the neighbourhood. The road itself separates both footpaths which directly affects social interaction within the area.

Reflections:

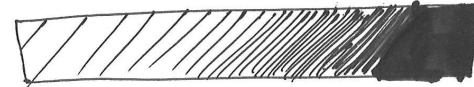
Our initial research within the Lower Newtownards Road area greatly informed our strategic design proposal. Having spoken to numerous members of the community we felt it was appropriate to pursue our design intentions based on emphasising pedestrianisation as well as community inclusivity. By proposing an incremental strategy to remove vehicular activity from the area, this gave us the opportunity to implement and develop a more sustainable pedestrian focused environment. By including a light tram system within the proposal, we promoted an environmentally friendly connection with inner and greater Belfast areas. The Tram would reduce noise and air pollution due to the subtraction of multiple vehicles as currently present. This, in turn provides a healthy environment which will ensure the prosperity of future generations within the community.





Causes For Smeel

- Panels.
- Cars — Road.
- People — Highway
- Other.

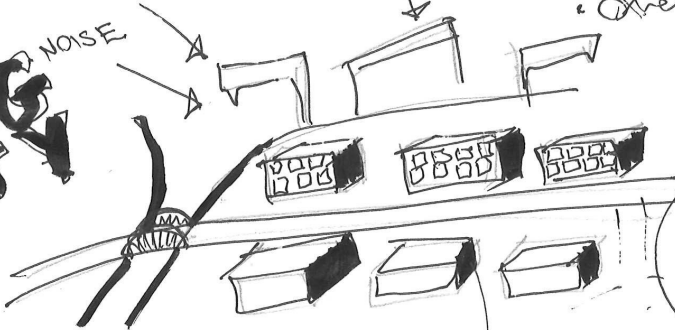


CANCER

NOISE

POLLUTION

BIG CITY

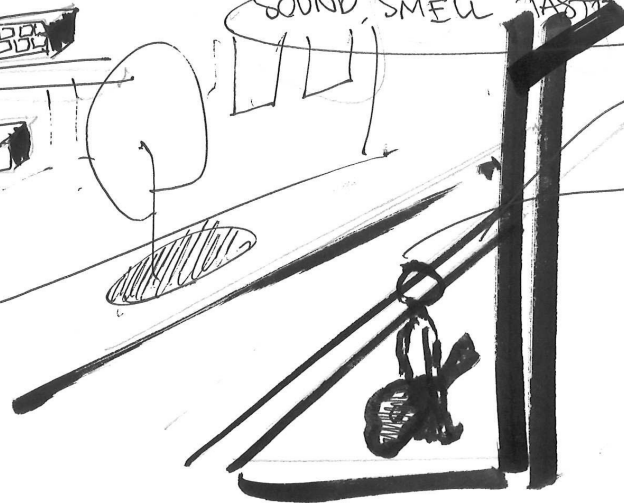


SOUND, SMOEL, TASTE, SIGHT

cycle (cancer &)
notes.

cars (cancer &)

Sound ↓, interaction ↑





Project 2

Newtownards Road: Cancer Focus

Exploring the effects of our urban environment on users' health and developing both long term and temporary strategies to combat these issues.

Client:

Cancer Focus NI, Science Shop QUB

Student Group:

Chris Rooney, Jamie Smyth (MARCH 1); Jordan Nolan, Pavitra Selvan, Shadan Elgalaly (BSc 1)Curran, Dylan Kelly (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

Skin cancer accounts for the largest percentage of cancer diagnoses in Northern Ireland. In collaboration with Cancer Focus NI, we developed strategies for the Lower Newtownards Road to mediate the harmful effects of UV Rays and pollution on it's users while also improving the overall quality of the street.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

A two part strategy was developed alongside Group 1 to activate the Lower Newtownards Road whilst simultaneously reducing the detrimental health risks associated with the current state of the street.

The short term strategy involves creating shading devices which attach to existing lamp posts. These can be manually raised and lowered by residents via a pulley system encouraging residents to interact with their street. These shelters will raise awareness of the dangers posed by UV exposure as well as provide some much needed cover from both the sun and rain. In addition to this, posters and UV Index screens provide up to date and accurate readings of the current UV Index on the street, informing residents when they reach dangerous levels.

A series of posters (right) has also been designed and they are to be implemented as part of a campaign to raise awareness of skin cancer. The long term master-plan of the street was devised by Group 1; the first phase of which we developed, introducing traffic calming measures and various other improvements to the street.

Reflections:

Working in conjunction with Group 1, we have produced a series of options for the first phase of Group 1's long term, 50-year master-plan for the entirety of the Newtownards road. Our project focuses specifically on the last part of the road, from Templemore Avenue onwards. This part of the road has seen significantly less development than further down the road where the Connswater greenway development is currently underway.

It became clear during conversations with residents that, as a result, this part of the community has been left feeling disillusioned. Our proposals show measures that can be taken to gradually reclaim this part of the road from the cars that currently dominate it, and create a more pleasant, pedestrian-friendly environment. This would benefit everyone from residents to local businesses, opening up opportunities for each to engage with the street in new and healthy ways.

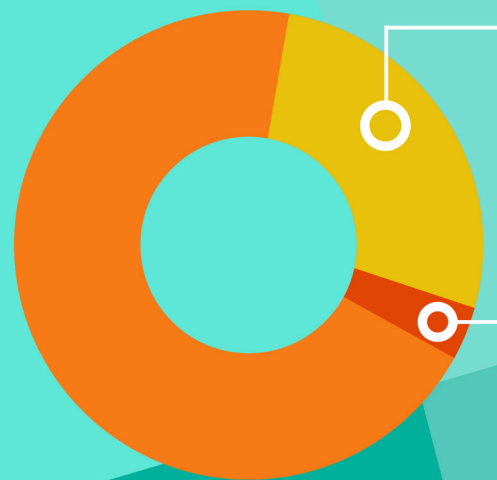
BELFAST LOUGH

CREATING
A MORE
SUSTAINABLE
CAR FREE
CITY

CONNECTING
THE CITY
CENTRE VIA
BICYCLE
ROUTES

NETWORK
OF SAFE
CYCLE
PATHS

— BELFAST BIKE SCHEME
— COMBER GREENWAY
— CONNSWATER GREENWAY
— NEWTOWARDS ROAD



SKIN CANCER
ACCOUNTS FOR
30% OF ALL
CANCER CASES IN
NORTHERN IRELAND

3%
OF WHICH ARE
MALIGNANT MELANOMA

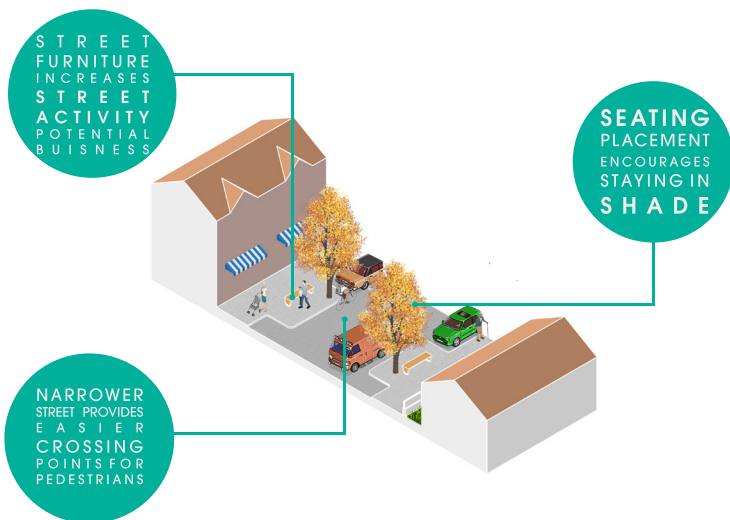
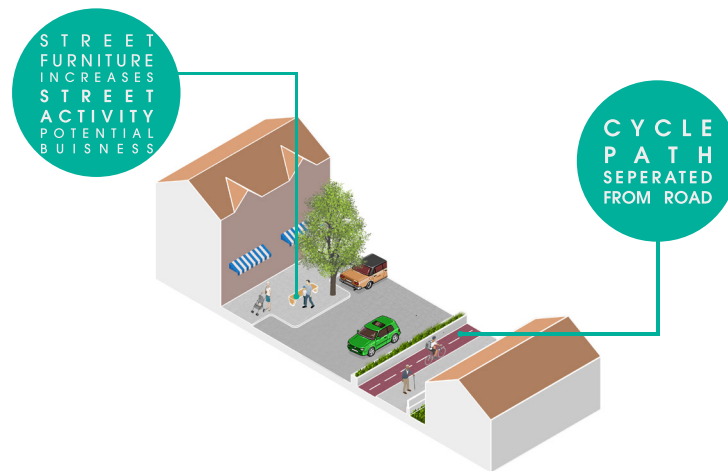
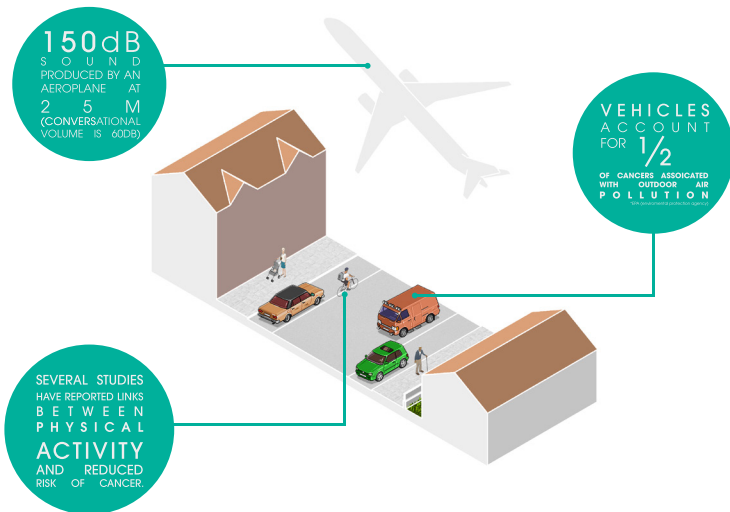
THAT MEANS **10** PEOPLE ARE DIAGNOSED
WITH SKIN CANCER EVERY SINGLE DAY

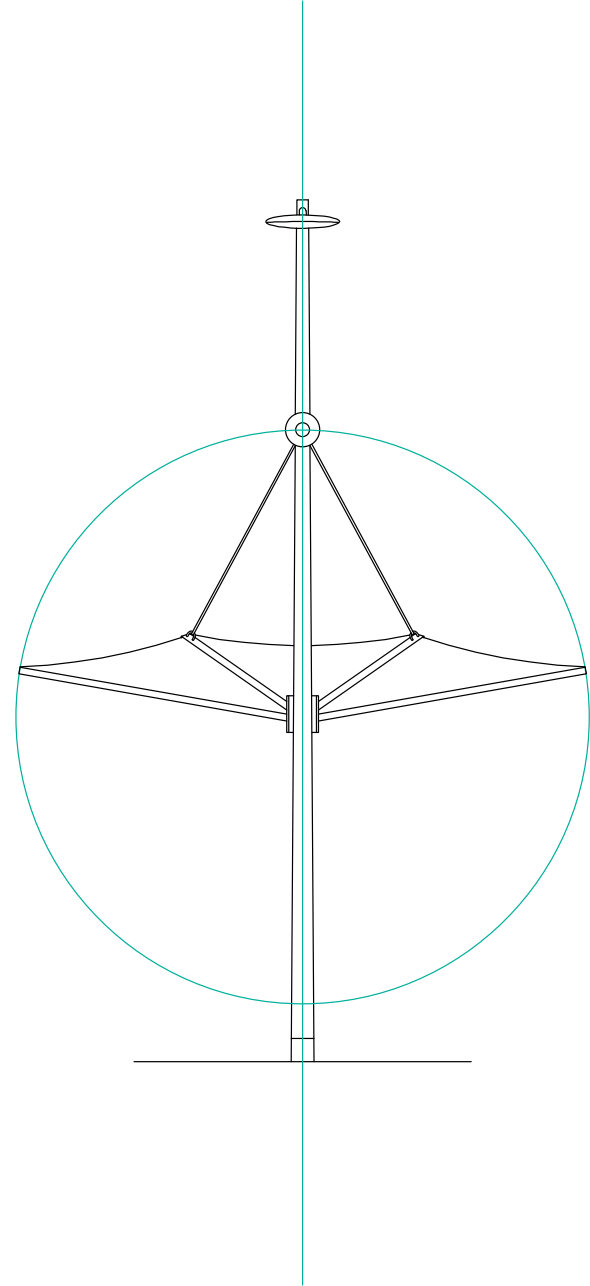
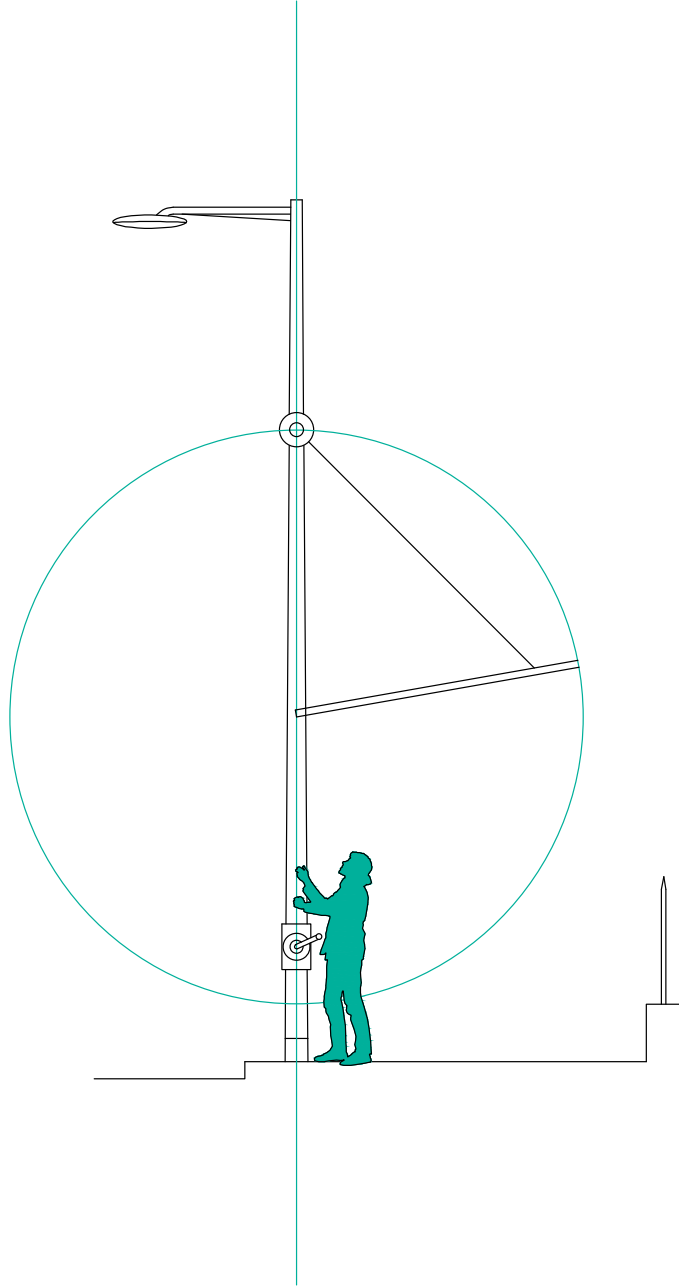


LOOK AFTER YOUR SKIN

SEEK THE SHADE

POSTER ONLY A REPRESENTATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE DISPLAYED TO RAISE AWARENESS OF SKIN CANCER
DESIGNED BY QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS AS PART OF THE URBAN VILLAGES SCHEME AND STREET SOCIETY







Project 3

QUBe Music Workshop

Sound and music making workshop with kids from the East Belfast community, run by QUBe using improvisational games.

Client:

Ballymac Friendship Centre

QUBe Members:

Paul Stapleton, Steve Davis, Martin Byrne, Elen Flugge, Andrew Harrison, Timothy Waddell, Ryan Watt, Ballymac Friendship Centre

Camera / Documentation:

Matilde Meireles

Client Brief:

The QUBe music collective was asked to run a sound-making workshop in the Ballymac Friendship Centre on Wednesday 9th March at 18:30-20:00. Friendship Centre. Consider a design for a proposed garden on their current building to promote social and creative aspects of their community. Keep the garden private to maintain their centre boundary.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

QUBe encouraged all to come along and play improvisational games with us, and help create unique sounds! We asked local children to bring something along that makes an interesting noise. Some brought keys, others stamped their feet, played a lunchbox or a cowbell or music from their phone. We also brought plenty of sound making devices to share. The main requirement was to have an open-minded enthusiasm for music and noise-making, and to have fun! The sound-making workshop was fun for both QUBe and community alike. The workshop was for all musical levels and abilities, and did not require any musical knowledge or training. The main performers were 8-10 year olds who played and improvised and even created their own musical pieces with instruments and voice. The children enjoyed making music so much that QUBe was invited to collaborate further and run more sound making workshops.

Reflections:

Improvisational methods lent themselves well to responding to unexpected events and situations on the ground.



Derry-Londonderry





Masterplan

Project 1

Youthful Landscapes

Regeneration of the Meenan Shops area and the transformation of the flyover into an ascending garden that connects two communities.

Client:

TRIAX

Student Group:

Gavin Campbell, Cathal Crumley, Mark Thompson (MArch 1);

Sarah Devlin, Ellen Dunlop, Ciaran Farren, Sarah Gustafsson (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

The Bogside area has been synonymous with anti social behaviour and dereliction for the best part of almost two decades. We have been asked to propose an intervention that is sensitive to such issues whilst enabling the locals to celebrate a sense of community pride. Challenges include the existence of the Lecky Road Flyover and the deteriorating condition of the Meenan Square shops.

Project Description/Process and Outcomes:

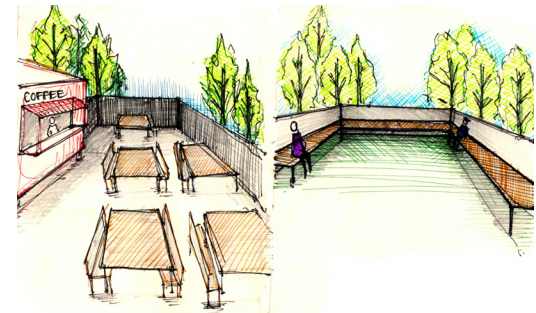
The Meenan Square Shops have been problematic within the Bogside area for a number of years, particularly regarding anti- social behaviour. We believe that in order to deter vandalism, it is important for local youths to "own" communal elements so as to allow them to protect property rather than diminish it. We propose a new traffic strategy that will allow the existing road to become a landscape that can flow into various parts of the community and beyond.

To many in the Bogside community, the flyover represents an era of oppression and segregation. What was once considered a brutalist symbol of military presence within the Bogside will now become a city-wide symbol for its future growth. The flyover is to be reconsidered as a cross-community shared park space where allotments will enable locals to grow fresh produce, children can play and passers by can simply enjoy the scenic quality of the new landscape.

By maintaining the existence of the Flyover, further considerations included the practical re-use of its underpass. In an attempt to celebrate the sites' existing urban fabric, we decided that a skate park would be appropriate.

Reflections:

The idea of the ascending garden originates from what we, as a team, have observed as a serious lack of integration within the existing landscape. The proposed gardenscape has been envisioned as a garden for the city, linking both the Bogside and Bishop Street intersection by the positioning of a shared Healthy Living Centre at the peak of the ascent. The Healthy Living Centre would include activity space for cooking classes and information sessions on the importance of using the garden to it's full capacity. Additionally, the HLC will act as a window to the garden by which locals can look upon their own community and revisit the journey that they have just experienced.





Redevelopment of the Meenan Shops





Project 2

Cultural Activation

An arts and enterprise centre for The Fountain area, in order to encourage inter-community relations.

Client:

Bob Harte Memorial Fund,
Londonderry Bands Forum;
Sollus Centre

Student Group:

Kathryn Dowse, Ben Lucas, Eve Russell (MArch 1)
Anna Aiken, Rachel Brown, Chris Connolly,
Danny Bittles (BSc 1)

Client Brief:

The clients presented us with a brief outlining how they intend to run a business, inspire local art / culture, and in turn set an example of what The Fountain area could become if the correct attention and funding becomes available. We have been provided with an activities list, a business plan and an estimated budget.

Project Description / Processes and Outcomes:

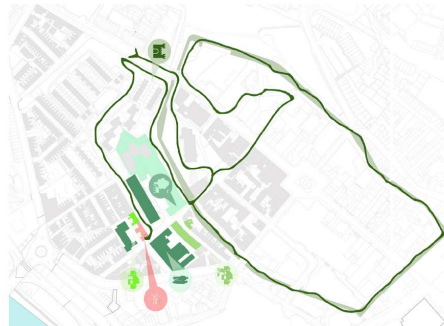
Initially, we met with our client to gain an understanding of what this arts and enterprise centre would mean to the surrounding community. From this the requirements of the local community became clear. We gained an understanding of their views and the potential of what this redevelopment could achieve, as well as the structural condition of the existing terraces. The project is divided into three key interventions. The first in the terraced housing will create a sustainable, social enterprise using the local community's skills in a kilt workshop and rental offices. Acknowledging the local music, arts and drama culture will create an opportunity for inter-community events. Phase Two includes a black box space for versatility. Phase Three aims to address the vacant buildings in the context, and to generate more housing for the growing, youthful population.

Reflections:

With an approachable client, this project was enjoyable, allowing us as a team to have realistic discussions with a group of people passionate about their area and arts. It was evident that this was not intended to be a short term fix, and that a longer term plan was needed. The community has a lot of heritage, knowledge and culture to

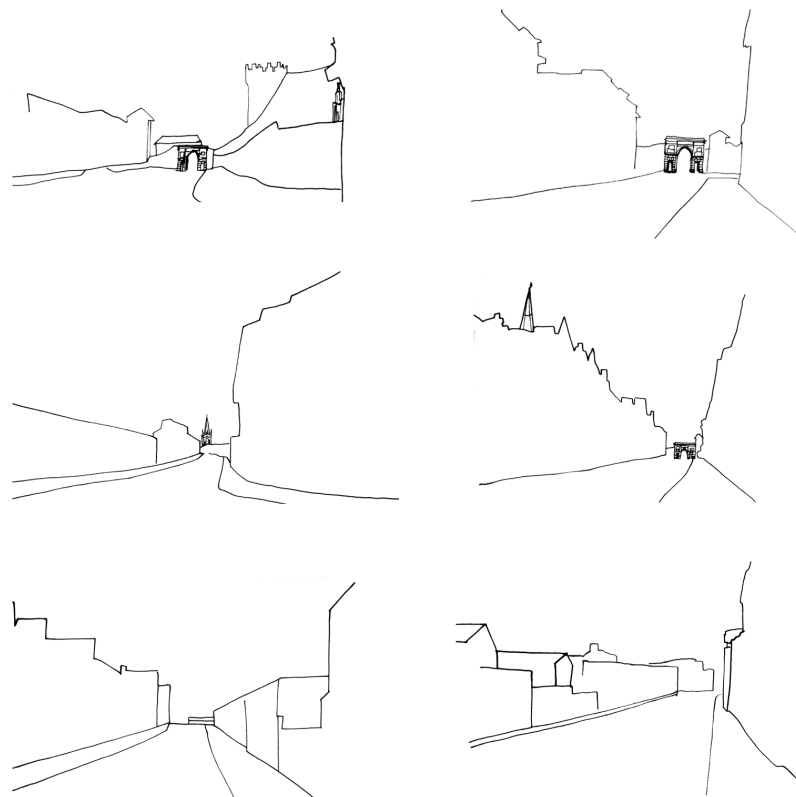
share. Doing so without a central hub has been a challenge. We hope that with a central hub of artistic, cultural and community activity, the community will develop and sustain a steady and established arts culture. BSc 1 and MArch 1 have drawn out their key skills in order to generate a vision of what The Fountain can be. This has been a challenging project with time constraints, however with the open minded clients and clear potential of the area, it has been enjoyable and educating.







The city of Derry-Londonderry is the only remaining intact walled city left within Ireland



Approach

Project 3

Within / Without

A phased, dual-community focused set of stages to develop a rethink of the Bishops Gate 'security wall'.

Client:

Peace Wall Project

Student Group:

James Foscett, Bronagh Hughes, Dacynda Rafferty (MArch 1); Grainne Hannaway, Ryan Hart, , Katie Jackson, Laurance Low (Bsc 1)

Client Brief:

Bishop Street Without flanks an interface between two communities. This 'security wall' divides the Fountain Estate to the east of the street and the Bogside to the west. Formerly the site used to be the former Derry Gaol.

Project Description / Process and Outcomes:

The project looks to reinstate the street edge of Bishop Street Without, with a three-phased plan of development. Phase 1 is the perforation in the wall, whereby a street of doors allows the residents from The Fountain and Bishop Street to integrate through the fluidity of space and shared movement. Through investigation and general conversation with the people from The Fountain and The Bogside, inhabiting the wall but being able to open and close the doors in the wall within and without creates a freedom for both communities.

Phase 2 is the integration of buildings that sit on the wall, shared by both communities. Having entrances from within and without creates a space that people can meet and greet within the communities. The integration of the buildings, for example a post office, cafe, pharmacy, craft centre and the Memorabilia Museum creates a purpose for the wall.

Phase 3 is the development of the urban landscape from The Fountain and Bishop Street, developing the urban farm idea of green planting that flows from within to without the two communities. In addition to the urban farm a shared space on Bishops Street and Nailors Row slows traffic down

with a material change in the road surface. The pavement and the road become the same surface material which clearly identifies the urgency to drivers to reduce their speed.

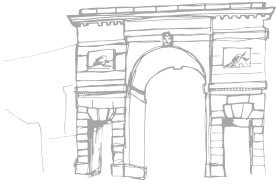
Reflections:

Having spoken to various members from both sides of the community, the integration of detail, small buildings and green space provide the people of the community with hope, inspiration and a vision for a shared future. This project idea excites members of the community; now the idea is for others to hear their voice and take action in helping these two communities develop.





Sketch Section



Acknowledgements

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Publication and final day event curated by Rachel O'Grady

Website: <http://streetsocietyqub.com>

Many thanks to the Urban Villages Initiative team.



Clients:

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Elaine Burns, ABC Health and Leisure Trust

Garnet Busby, Belfast South Community Resources Cancer Focus NI

Sammy Douglas, MLA

Gillian Gibson, Footprints Womens Centre

Fionntan Hargey, Markets Development Association

William Jackson, Gaol Tower Museum

James Kee

Lagmore residents

Charles Lamberton, TRIAX

Londonderry Bands Forum

Bill McCombe, Marrowbone

Anne McAlister, Donegall Pass Community Forum

Mary Meenan, Peace Walls Project

Derek Moore, Sollus Centre

John Paul Russell, Colin Neighbourhood

Partnership

Roz Small, Ballymac Friendship Centre

The Garden of Eatin' Volunteer Gardeners

Kyle Thompson, Bob Harte Memorial Trust

Venues:

Colin Glen Trust

Gasyard Art Centre

Jolly Roger Complex

Ormeau Business Park

Skainos Square

St Column's Park House

St Gemma's

External Evaluators:

Heather Floyd: Community Consultant

Rita Harkin: Independent Built Heritage Adviser

External Observers:

Professor Maurice Mitchell, Director of ARCSR at The Cass School of Architecture, LMU

Dr Colin Priest, Course Leader of BA Interiors and Spatial Design, Chelsea College of Arts
Nathalie Weadick, Director, Irish Architecture Foundation

Invigilators:

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Suping Ling

Joseph Sheridan

Timothy Waddell

Ashlene Wright

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